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BASQUE GOVERNMENT DENIES DREW PEARSON'S CHARGES THAT GALINDEZ WAS ON CIA PAYROLL

Charges made by Drew Pearson in a recent syndicated column that the late Jesus de Galindez had been working for the CIA at the time of his disappearance in 1956 have been flatly denied by the Basque Government.

The following statement answering Mr. Pearson's charges has been sent to IBERICA, for release to the press, by Sr. Jesus Maria de Leizaola, President of the Basque Government (in exile):

Paris, May 20, 1961

"A commentary by Drew Pearson which appeared recently in the New York Mirror of May 10 makes reference again to Professor Jesus de Galindez, former representative of the Basque Government in New York.

"Jesus de Galindez came from the Dominican Republic to New York in 1946. He was named Delegate of this Government in 1949, and filled this position for seven years until his disappearance on March 12, 1956. He was not on the payroll of the C.I.A., nor did he receive funds from said Agency. He was never at the head of the Basque resistance movement against the power of Franco in Spain.

"This recent insinuation is as false as the statement made shortly after the disappearance of Professor Galindez, accusing him of being an agent of communism."

Jesus Maria de Leizaola
President of the Basque

CPYRGHT

Along Chain Bridge Road

AS SUPERVISOR A. CLAI-BORNE LEIGH sat through the long Merrywood hearing last week, perhaps he was absorbed every minute by the vigorous arguments swirling about the 17-story apartment project. But as the debate over the \$16 million tower apartment continued hour after hour, his thoughts may have turned to the long controversies over how McLean should grow.

As a 29-year-old attorney and a political upstart, Mr. Leigh had challenged G. Wallace Carper, who had been serving as Supervisor since Claiborne was five years old. Mr. Leigh had charged Mr. Carper with failing to support strict zoning and had told Dranesville voters, "Let me state emphatically that I strongly favor zoning that will preserve the inherent and basic rural and residential characteristics of Dranesville District."

Four years later, running for reelection against Wallace's cousin, Bright M. Carper, Mr. Leigh had allowed the word to spread that he stood "firmly against the construction of apartments anywhere in Dranesville District."

And during more than six years in office, Mr. Leigh, with the help of colleagues on the board, had been able to beat off every bid for apartment zoning in his district. But the pressures mounted, and a number of developers pointedly refrained from building houses on their valuable tracts, as if they knew it was just a matter of time before the apartments would get clearance.

AS THE MERRYWOOD hearing rolled on and Mr. Leigh thought of all the various aspects of the case, perhaps he reflected on the future of his 27 acres on Pimmit Run, just far from the George Washington Parkway, Chain Bridge Road and CIA. He may have thought back to the visit, before the Merrywood case, of a real estate man and builder who suggested that the Supervisor's own property was an ideal site for a tower apartment.

For Mr. Leigh to try to carry the plan through himself would be impossible. If the property were sold and someone else were to press the case, there might be a chance.

A chance for high-rise apartments on Pimmit Run? Certainly not—not unless other tower projects were approved by the parkway or the Potomac at CIA. But it was just a matter of time, the Dranesville Supervisor has been hearing his brethren on the board and trying to turn him down on his promise to deny "just one more, for one more, if there were going to be apartments, why not one along Pimmit Run?"

MR. LEIGH MAY HAVE RE-called that he had discouraged the proposal as too difficult and too far distant for his planning, with urgent personal considerations pressing him to dispose of the property as quickly as possible. The chance of high-rise zoning for his land appeared to be a slim one, indeed. The conversations might have been more fruitful if the participants had visualized that the dormant apartment projects along the parkway and at CIA might soon get the break they were waiting for—at Merrywood.

Mr. Leigh's 27 acres could bring \$150,000 if his application for half-acre zoning, just filed with the planning office, were granted by his fellow Supervisors. But the sight of apartments from his Pimmit Run hill could run the price up to \$500,000. He felt he could not hold his land long enough to command such a price. But what would the price be, after Merrywood?

When it was time to speak, Mr. Leigh talked of the possible effect on the area of zoning Merrywood on the Potomac for apartments. Then suddenly—or so it seemed to his audience—he was saying, "I move the application be granted."

And then, with Mr. Leigh's motion passed, the meeting adjourned. It was the end of the hearing, but not the end of The Merrywood Case.

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